In The Matter Of:

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 12, 2018

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BEFORE THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 12, 2018 10:00 A.M.

APPEARANCES

BOARD MEMBERS:

Commissioner/Non-Voting Mr. Johnny Key Dr. Jay Barth Chairman Mr. Joe Black Vice Chairman Ms. Mireya Reith Board Member Ms. Diane Zook Board Member Ms. Charisse Dean Board Member Ms. Susan Chambers Board Member Mr. R. Brett Williamson Board Member Ms. Ouida Newton Board Member Dr. Fitzgerald Hill Board Member Teacher of the Year/ Ms. Courtney Cochran Non-Voting Member

ADE LEGAL COUNSEL:

Ms. Lori Freno ADE General Counsel

Ms. Courtney Salas-Ford ADE Deputy General Counsel

Ms. Jennifer Davis ADE Staff Attorney

Ms. Mary Claire Hyatt ADE Attorney

ALSO PRESENT:

Ms. Kelicia Hollis ADE Administrative Analyst

LOCATION:

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
- Auditorium
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72118

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EXHIBITS

A-2: ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE

EXHIBIT ONE (1)

ABC Innovation Grant Recipients Map

EXHIBIT TWO (2)
Report re: ABC Awards

	- April 12, 2018
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	A-1: RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE APRIL 2018 AS MONTH OF THE
3	MILITARY CHILD, 2018 MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD RECOGNITION,
4	AND PURPLE STAR SCHOOL AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT
5	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Then we are now to our first
6	action item and it is a resolution to recognize April
7	as Month of the Military Child and a series of other
8	recognitions. And so I'm going to turn it over to
9	Mr. Kaminar.
10	MS. ZOOK: While he's making his way up, may I
11	ask Ms. McLaughlin to remind the schools that turn in
12	reports on the 1240 waivers to give us some if
13	they can try and give some specific information about
14	how the waiver is helping with improved growth and
15	achievement of the students. They gave us sort of
16	brief form. But that would be what I would be
17	interested in, is this helping kids.
18	MS. McLAUGHLIN: You said growth and
19	MS. ZOOK: And achievement.
20	MS. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you.
21	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Thank you, Ms.
22	Zook.
23	MS. ZOOK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. KAMINAR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Mr. Kaminar.

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Commissioner Key, and Ladies and Gentlemen. As you know, every April we observe Month of the Military Child to recognize the many sacrifices that are made not only by Arkansas's military families but also by the children who endure so much when mom or dad are called to active duty, deployed overseas, or maybe transferred state to state.

I'd like to go ahead at this point, Mr.

I'd like to go ahead at this point, Mr.

Chairman, and read the text of the resolution that
we've prepared for you --

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay.

MR. KAMINAR: -- and then I will follow-up with introducing some military families who have honored us with their presence today. So, the resolution first:

WHEREAS, More than 9,000 Arkansans exhibit profound courage and selflessness by serving in the armed forces; and

WHEREAS, More than 3,700 military children attend public schools in the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Military families live and work in every county in the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Military children face unique

challenges related to military transitions and

parental deployment; and

1	WHEREAS, Military children and their families
2	serve as an essential source of support and
3	encouragement for armed services members; and
4	WHEREAS, Military children should be
5	acknowledged for the sacrifices they make and
6	celebrated for the courage they display as the
7	children of our nation's armed service members; and
8	WHEREAS, The Military Interstate Children's
9	Compact Commission, of which Arkansas is a proud
10	member, the Department of Defense, and various other
11	organizations nationwide recognize April as Month of
12	the Military Child;
13	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT
14	The Arkansas State Board of Education recognizes
15	and salutes military children by recognizing the
16	month of April 2018 as Month of the Military Child.
17	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. I'd entertain a motion
18	to approve that resolution.
19	MS. CHAMBERS: Move to approve.
20	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Motion by Ms. Chambers.
21	MR. BLACK: Second.
22	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Second by Mr. Black.
23	All those in favor say "aye."
24	(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
25	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed?

Thank you very much.

MR. KAMINAR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And if I may, I'd like now to go ahead and introduce our military families.

I'm going to start with the Air Force. Jazzmyn Agoah -- Jazzmyn, if you'd please stand up. Jazzmyn is six years old; she is a kindergartner at Arnold Drive Elementary School in Jacksonville. She is accompanied today by her mother, Air Force Staff Sergeant Regina Edwards, a photo journalist assigned to the 19th Airlift Wing at the Little Rock Air Force Base.

[APPLAUSE]

MR. KAMINAR: On the far end, we have Maverick Sample who is four years old and will soon be started preschool in Bryant. He is here today with his father Petty Officer Second Class Aaron Sample, a Damage Control Specialist in the United States Navy, and his mother Melissa Sample, an audiology student at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. And I would like to point out that Petty Officer Sample has just re-enlisted for a tour of active duty with the Navy.

[APPLAUSE]

MR. KAMINAR: And I have saved the oldest branch

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of the service for the last: the Army. Ma'Kenzie
Woods is a graduate of Maumelle High School in 2017.
She is a freshman this year at Philander Smith
College in Little Rock. Her sister Maleah, 16 years
old, is a sophomore at eSTEM High School in Little
Rock. They're here today with their father Command
Sergeant Major Ronald Woods of the Arkansas Army
National Guard, stationed at Camp Robinson.

[APPLAUSE]

And, Mr. Chairman, one other item MR. KAMINAR: of business, it gives me great pleasure -- it's my honor to announce the creation of the Arkansas Purple Star School Award program as a joint venture between the Arkansas Council of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, the Arkansas Department of Education, and the Arkansas Activities The Arkansas Purple Star School Award Association. will recognize schools that show a major commitment to serving students and families connected to our nation's armed forces. The Purple Star Awardees will receive a special Purple Star School sign provided generously by the Arkansas Activities Association to display in their buildings, and they will be recognized on the Arkansas Department of Education website. The information on how schools may apply

for the award will be presented on the Department of Education website.

I would like to recognize in absentia Mr. Lance
Taylor, the executive director of the Arkansas
Activities Association for his support; Ms. Nora
Peloquin, who is with us today -- she is the director
of Family and Youth Programs for the Arkansas
National Guard; and Ms. Shenese Broadus, the school
liaison officer from the Little Rock Air Force Base.

And subject to any questions, Mr. Chairman -- CHAIRMAN BARTH: Thank you, Mr. Kaminar.

And I want to thank all the families for being here and for standing in for many more families who couldn't be here. And I think the resolution says it well in terms of y'all's sacrifice and our commitment and special responsibility to do right by all the students of military families.

MR. KAMINAR: And thank you, sir, for allowing us to go a little bit earlier in the agenda.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Of course. Of course.

COMMISSIONER KEY: Well, and, Dr. Barth, also at this time there's also another bit of news related to this we just became aware of yesterday. Colonel Berry, would you stand up? Don Berry is with the Arkansas Veterans Coalition. He has worked very hard

1	with the Governor's office. Governor has a goal of
2	making Arkansas a more military family-friendly and
3	veteran-friendly state. And in that vein I want to
4	recognize the work of Cheryl Reinhart, Melissa Jacks,
5	Dr. Owoh, and the team there, because we just learned
6	yesterday DOD, Department of Defense, reported that
7	the Arkansas Department of Education meets all
8	criteria established for moving certification
9	impediments from military spouse teachers. And I
10	want to take this opportunity to express my thanks
11	for the work of our team and for the benefits that
12	will create for military spouses moving into the
13	state of Arkansas. So thank you, Team. And we want
14	to take care of our families that are coming in and
15	being a part of our community and remaining a part of
16	our community. So, thank you.
17	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. Thank you.
18	Any comments or questions before we go take a
19	quick photo, anyone?
20	All right.
21	MR. KAMINAR: Thank you.
22	(WHEREUPON, a photo of the military families,
23	Commissioner Key, and Chairman Barth was taken.)
24	A-2: ENHANCEMENTS FOR ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE
25	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Our next business

item relates to the Arkansas Better Chance program and I'll call on Mary Kay McKinney to talk to us.

And I would also note that there were a couple of handouts related to this item that came around earlier this morning, the map and the other list.

MS. McKINNEY: Yes, sir.

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(WHEREUPON, A2 Exhibits One (1) and Two (2) were marked for identification and entered into the record.)

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Welcome, Ms. McKinney.

Thank you so much. And I regret MS. McKINNEY: that I did not have this prepared and completed for your board packet, so I know that it's a lot to There were no changes in the staff credentials on that chart or the professional development, so that is exactly the same. difference on the new chart that was handed out to you, along with the map, are those items that go with the innovation piece. And this is the \$3 million that Governor Hutchinson discussed during the 2017 legislative session where he said he wanted to use -see this funding used for improving and rewarding teacher quality and also for possibly establishing some, I quess, islands of excellence of innovation. And so that is what we have tried to do to honor

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The process that we went about in the ABC credentials is it was based on the data and information that was submitted into our data system on all staff that serve in our ABC program, as well as for the ones that were in the process of completing some level of training. And while we tried to honor everything that was discussed by the Governor's proposal we did find it kind of hard to cover all bases. And so, therefore, we came up with \$1,000 for the credentials for each teacher who met that credential to go to the program and \$500 for the training for each teacher that we had documentation that they actually were in training and making progress. And that is how we went about in identifying the credentials and the staff qualifications.

On the innovations grants that we gave out we targeted literacy support, social/emotional, STEM, and then also natural playground or eco-friendly playgrounds, not looking at the ideal of seeing programs install big apparatuses or playground structures. But rather than things that take nature into consideration and outdoor play centers so that it continues that activity that might be taking place

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in the classroom to continue in the outdoor setting. And so what we tried to do in the map is try to show you the dispersion. Now we have -- Arkansas River is going to be working in conjunction with Dollarway School District and they're doing a summer service and they're going to focus on literacy through the use of Curious George and community helpers. then we have a partnership on social/emotional and trying to learn more about trauma care with -- North Little Rock and the Russellville School District are partnering together. We're hoping that if in fact that becomes something that maybe other programs could take and build on their programs -- because we see more and more children that have -- that are coming from and into our system with challenging behaviors. And so we know that this is a springboard for when they're going into kindergarten. So if we can try to work on them now then maybe it will prevent more challenging behaviors by the time they get into public school.

The ABC Children's Academy and Development

Center, they have several -- seven different

locations. So they are planning to disperse out to
the seven locations. Then the OUR Ed. Co-op, they
have both a HIPPY program and they serve 13 school

districts in northwest Arkansas -- or really almost northwest or central Arkansas. And then the South Central Co-op that is located in Camden, they are doing STEM and their focus is going to be in their five different schools that they have ABC services. And we have tried to document; that's why there are probably more stars and plus signs and zeroes and triangles on your map than what actual programs we have below, because we tried to document that so that it would give you a visual of where we're trying to reach out to.

We were a little concerned; we did not get a lot of requests from the northern/eastern/central area or the southeast area, which is two areas that need a focus. The one piece that we requested in these grants is that they had to relate in their purpose and their objectives of using the early childhood standards and how it would relate for school readiness. And if programs did not follow that instruction then in essence we did not consider them for funding. Now what that means is that it is our expectation that this \$3 million will be available again at the beginning of the next fiscal year -- and if that is the case, then we will try to work with these programs to make them understand our

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1	expectations and what they need to do so that they do
2	submit fundable applications and maybe do something
3	like a Betters Conference.
4	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right.
5	MS. McKINNEY: Any questions?
6	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Commissioner?
7	COMMISSIONER KEY: Yeah. Ms. McKinney, you
8	know, we hear constantly we need more money for pre-
9	k. I mean one of our partner organizations the
10	State Board is partnering with ForwARd Arkansas,
11	that's a big push. But then when you have a call-to-
12	action like this or an opportunity, you know, some of
13	those same parts of the state where we're saying
14	needs more pre-k, needs higher quality pre-k, you get
15	no response or limited response. Any have y'all
16	had any conversations at your agency about that? And
17	is it a communication barrier that we can't seem to
18	break through or is it just everybody is too busy? I
19	mean I'm because we have the same issue at ADE.
20	MS. McKINNEY: Uh-huh.
21	COMMISSIONER KEY: I'm just curious your
22	thoughts.
23	MS. McKINNEY: We have talked about it. And I
24	think that one of the pieces is that this was a very
25	simple grant. We made it very simple so that it was

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no more than about three or four pages; so we weren't asking for seven, ten, fifteen pages. And we have talked about that those areas that haven't applied, really trying to go out and do some type of technical assistance and do a training. You know, it's apparent that when we get some of the applications and they're, for lack of a better word, not written well -- it's obvious that not everybody is a grant writer. And so I feel like that -- not that I want to spoon-feed people, but I do feel like that there's not any kind of training in any higher ed. program that I know that gives you a lot of training in grant writing skills. And so I think that we do try to take that into consideration and then we can negotiate with someone. But I think that that is the biggest deterrent that we have is that people just do not know how to interpret the instructions and understand what needs to be on that paper for it to be a fundable grant. And so our mission is to try to provide technical assistance to those areas and do And it may be very possible that maybe we need to work with someone in the Department of Ed., along with that process of doing TA.

COMMISSIONER KEY: We -- you've just described

what we see as well, a recent opportunity we've had

for a second year of the Professional Learning

Community's pilot. And we saw very few submissions

from southeast Arkansas, and other parts of the

state. But it was very noted that in that part of

the state we did not get what we expected. So

obviously I would imagine if we looked at DHS, Health

Department, other grant opportunities we might see

similar response results. And that may be an area

where it's not just our two agencies, but other

agencies need to put our heads together to determine

how can we help overcome some of those barriers that

are limiting the applications we get from different

parts of the state.

MS. McKINNEY: I agree.

COMMISSIONER KEY: Yeah. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: A related question -- and I'm just trying to eyeball things a little bit. Is your sense that those grant proposals that come from districts are stronger or do they have more kind of bandwidth to do higher quality grant proposals? Or is there no real correlation between school district-based ABC sites and non-district sites?

MS. McKINNEY: That's a difficult question because we do receive well-written grants from both entities. And like looking at this, the Ouachita

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Industries and -- we have a number of private programs on here. The bulk of them are from public And usually we do get better grants from -schools. it's a good thing, but, you know, some of the bigger districts, larger districts we get better grants The more rural, smaller districts, not so from. much. And I -- that's a double-edged sword, I know, because there are many good programs -- there are -if we'd had more money available, we could have funded a lot more than this. But because our percent -- I think it was 12% that we had for the innovation grants -- it wasn't as available. In fact, there were many of these grants -- we gave it up to \$75,000 and we -- I wish we could've funded more at that level. And what our thought process is is that if they show good due-diligence with these grants then there may be a second phase to some of these so that they can fulfill everything that they want. I know like in the south central area that's a real big need; there's a number of districts in there that could really benefit from more funding. And so the other thing is mentoring. I wish we could figure out how to do some kind of mentoring so that if -- from this pot or from this group of grantees that maybe they could be a part of that training

process. Because sometimes you do better with a peer training another peer than someone from the state trying to provide services.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Thank you. Appreciate that.
Ms. Reith.

[MS. REITH IS COUGHING]

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Sorry. You want me to come back?

MS. REITH: No, I think I should be fine. Thank you. Thank you, Ms. McKinney. Sorry; I apologize for the cough.

So I guess what I'm trying to discern from your comments is the issue about that there are folks on the ground; they just don't have the capacity to write a grant and/or, maybe more of a greater concern, put together a strong program; right? Or is the issue that we don't have folks on the ground that are putting forth proposals from these areas? And I ask that question also trying to interface with our work that Ms. Dean and myself are doing with the Family Engagement Taskforce, because the realizations, even from our conversations yesterday, of how many of these challenges we continue to put on the schools. And where we talk about community and family engagement, we haven't prepared community --

or in some cases there's just not community present, right, in the form of formal nonprofits or individuals that have the capacity to do this. And I guess what I'm just trying to figure out with pre-k is the issue that there's not boots on the ground that can do this work or is it an issue just of, you know, specialized skill-sets around grant writing?

MS. McKINNEY: And again I'll have to say it's probably a combination. I think that in some cases it -- or it may be that there are individuals that just -- you know, I think sometimes when you say you're going to write a grant people become somewhat intimidated by that process, thinking that it's ominous and it's very -- it's going to be a very research, time-consuming process -- and in some cases a grant can be a time-consuming process.

And then I also have to take into consideration the time element. I do not feel that we probably gave them enough time to feel comfortable to do this. That's why we gave them a very concise and short, easy grant to complete.

So I do feel optimistic that we can change our next set of grant opportunities so that more people will apply and make it even a greater competitive process. It's just -- excuse me -- it's just I think

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individuals also get frustrated that "I've applied,
I've applied, I've applied and you're not selecting
my grant." And so that's when we need to reach out
to them and try to make sure that they clearly
understand the process, the language, what's expected
so that they are a fundable application.

MS. REITH: Thank you, Ms. McKinney.

And I guess my next comment then, Dr. Barth, is directed toward you as our liaison with ForwARd Arkansas, as I know they think about next stages with ForwARd communities, and I know they've had consultants working specifically within those communities. It seems that if there's priority areas like this, like pre-k, and specialized skill-sets like grant writing, could ForwARd and their consultants not offer grant writing courses, right, in terms of thinking of some of these gap areas? we've identified that and we know and we concur around the value of pre-k but acknowledge some of these barriers, are there things where our community partners or organized coalitions of community partners, the way that ForwARd is, could play some of these specialized roles, just being very cognizant that as we look forward all of these challenges can't fall onto the backs of schools, districts or the

Department of Ed., that we really need collaborative efforts.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: I agree. And I'll take that back for sure.

MS. REITH: Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. Dean? Okay.

Ms. Zook, anything?

MS. ZOOK: Okay. It was my understanding that this money or at least in the announcement it said this money was going to go to study to find out what it took to make a quality pre-k. It seems like what it turned into is money that you filled out a grant to apply for so you -- if you had a good grant writer you may not have any proof that you have a quality pre-k going on; the pre-k kids may not be going to kindergarten any better prepared, but if you wrote a good grant then you got part of the money. So I think my frustration is we still -- I think the Walton Family Foundation is now funding that and they're going to do a national study, which is, you know, wonderful. But this money going to -- if all of these places are quality pre-k, then terrific; I'm glad they have an opportunity, I'm glad they're getting more credentials. but we don't even really have any concrete 21st century data that that one

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more credential is going to make that child's experience coming through that pre-k any better. So I think my frustration is that we -- that's a lot of money, and to not use it to find out more deeply and then maybe assist and work with the private money to say here's what a quality pre-k is and here's how you're going to share that with other people, and you have an obligation in this co-op because, boy, we've got some top-notch people who have gotten these people ready; they have a whole child approach, they have -- you know, so I am disappointed in the way that the money has been chosen to be spent. know you're the messenger, and you and I get along fine; so people may misunderstand that back-and-I know you're not in charge of the world, so But please convey that, if you will, to DHS. MS. McKINNEY: I will. CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. All right. Mr. Black? Mr. Williamson? Ms. Chambers? All right. Okay. Then if there are no other questions I would entertain a motion on the allocation of these dollars

Is that correct?

(nodding head up and down)

across these three programs.

MS. McKINNEY:

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1	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. So, a motion?
2	MS. REITH: I move to approve the proposed
3	enhancements for the ABC program.
4	MS. CHAMBERS: Second.
5	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Motion by Ms.
6	Reith, second by Ms. Chambers.
7	All those in favor say "aye."
8	(MAJORITY CHORUS OF AYES)
9	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed?
10	MS. ZOOK: No.
11	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Record the no vote by
12	Ms. Zook.
13	But we thank you, Ms. McKinney, for all your
14	good work in trying to reach places that are
15	challenging places to reach. So, thank you.
16	MS. McKINNEY: Thank you very much.
17	A-3: CONSIDERATION OF CHARTER AUTHORIZING PANEL'S DECISIONS -
18	SUMMARY INFORMATION
19	a) ROCKBRIDGE MONTESSORI SCHOOL
20	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. I think we can
21	hopefully get through Charter Authorizing materials
22	before lunch. And so I will turn it over to Ms. Boyd
23	for items for the two for item 3(a).
24	MS. ZOOK: On her way up can we congratulate her
25	on successfully defending her dissertation?

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1	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Yeah. Congratulations, Dr.
2	Boyd.
3	[APPLAUSE]
4	DR. BOYD: Thank you. I'm Alexandra Boyd,
5	director of the Charter Unit. For item 3
6	COMMISSIONER KEY: Mr. Chairman, I think there's
7	a correction. That's Dr. Alexandra Boyd.
8	DR. BOYD: Thank you, Commissioner. I'm Dr.
9	Alexandra Boyd and I'm the director of the Charter
10	Unit. For item 3(a), this is a decision that was made
11	by the Panel at its previous meeting. You all have
12	the right to vote to review or not review that
13	decision today. And as a reminder, Rockbridge
14	Montessori School was on probationary status. The
15	Panel voted to release them from that status, but
16	asked them to include some future reporting. So the
17	overall message is that the Panel noticed the
18	progress that the charter is making; they're not
19	completely satisfied with where they are. So that's
20	where things are. We have Superintendent Felton
21	here, if you have questions for him, and also their
22	board president is here. And just a reminder: the
23	vote is to review or not review.
24	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Thank you, Dr.
25	Boyd.

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1	I will start over here if there are questions or
2	comments. Ms. Cochran, anything? All right. Ms.
3	Newton?
4	MS. NEWTON: I can't get my there it goes.
5	Dr. Boyd, I have a question for you. Did the Charter
6	Panel have access to the ESSA school index that we
7	got yesterday?
8	DR. BOYD: No, ma'am. Only certain members of
9	the Panel who had a few members of the Panel had
10	access to that information because it wasn't public
11	at the time. However, Mr. Felton generalized the
12	outcomes for the Panel, so he didn't go into very
13	specific information because he couldn't; it wasn't
14	public yet. But he did explain to the Panel where
15	they were academically, why their scores were low,
16	and how well they're doing with their interim
17	assessments to date.
18	MS. NEWTON: So were they made aware of where
19	they would fall I mean did they have an idea of
20	how
21	DR. BOYD: About the letter grade?
22	MS. NEWTON: how low it would be, I guess?
23	DR. BOYD: No, ma'am. I don't believe that was
24	the case.
25	MS. NEWTON: Okay.

1 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Dr. Hill? Ms. Chambers? Mr. Williamson? Mr. Black? Ms. Zook? 2 MS. ZOOK: First of all, I want to commend the 3 Panel on a very thorough in-depth -- from visits to 4 5 every piece of information to -- they left no stone unturned and I appreciated that. I was not able to 6 7 attend the meeting, but I did listen to it once it 8 was posted. And I do appreciate the Panel and how 9 thorough they were with that. I think the only question I have before I vote 10 11 is -- and I see Mr. Felton is here. He talked about 12 the teacher has a Masters in reading, but having a 13 Masters in reading and knowing how to teach the science of reading can be different. 14 15 Department -- or have you worked with Ms. Smith or 16 anyone to find out if what that teacher is helping with, the PD, is in fact complimentary to the science 17 18 of reading that we're doing here in the state? 19 MR. FELTON: I understand. Will Felton, 20 superintendent of Rockbridge. Yes, ma'am, we -- Ms. 21 Shock that works at APSRC has been our liaison with 22 the reading people. We actually have that teacher in 23 the R.I.S.E. program to work with. 24 MS. ZOOK: Okay. 25 MR. FELTON: And then we also are aware of the

steps that were released about how they can do it online too to get a better background. And we are definitely all, even administration, is going to take that route.

MS. ZOOK: And also Dr. Hernandez expressed concern about so many -- so few people who work there and so many of them who have to come here for those reports. But I think if this -- if we choose not to review then I think that it would be simply a matter of providing the report, not having to bring people with you, and I'm sure you can work that out with Dr. Boyd. But that would be my -- anyway, thanks again to the Panel.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Ms. Dean, anything?
Okay. Ms. Reith?

Any other comments?

You know, I do -- I want to voice my concern about what appears to be a real hyper-dependency on APSRC by this school in so many areas, not just -- I mean across the board. I mean it's -- if there's a question -- and we've obviously had many conversations with Rockbridge folks over the last few months; I mean it is -- APSRC is the -- has been the answer and I'm just worried about sustainability, not just operationally but also curricular -- in terms of

curricular matters. So I do have a very deep concern. It's not so much the performance that we saw on the report cards, but it's really is there sustainability for the future.

DR. BOYD: Dr. Barth, a note about the report cards before we move forward. I just want to emphasize that those are results based on the previous year and with the previous administration. So that's just one thing to keep in mind.

In terms of the dependency on APSRC, I would just like to remind the Board that Rockbridge -- even though we don't have a formalized name for it, they are kind of in a restart mode. So I think that's why that's going on right now, but Mr. Felton can speak to that. I'm assuming that he has a plan, kind of a gradual release plan once the kind of restart year is completed.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Thanks, Mr. Felton.

MR. FELTON: You're welcome. So there is a plan to kind of back away from APSRC. Now we do use them for financial and they've been very successful, and we plan on continuing using that program with them.

As you can tell, the finances are very thorough.

As far as the curriculum goes, when I -- I was -- when I decided to become a principal or whatever,

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I decided to go the curriculum route. So I try
really hard to keep in mind that even though I'm a
manager of a school I am an educational leader. The
teachers themselves are pretty much leading this urge
to change things. And as far as the science of
reading, that's pretty much the one thing that I feel
like the school needs support in and we're getting
that through the Department now. So just -- Ms.
Shock was just a liaison to get us into that.

I've done this for awhile. I can say that I feel very strongly -- what we have accomplished and what we're going to do next is just exciting. can't imagine the test scores not going up. to just that, there were a huge number of students that didn't get tested. They got hit for that, some test irregularities. So we've focused really hard on that. And it's already starting to where APSRC is slowly backing away. Now for SPED, the Charter Panel thought it would still be good to have that person at the APSRC work with us and she's been a huge But now where she was coming in, you know, resource. two or three times a week, we've seen less of her. Ι am going to hire a principal of sorts next year to help take off some of the workload on myself. And we are growing in numbers, which will allow us to have,

	31
1	you know, one more teacher that will help in the
2	mathematics department. So we are in the process of
3	slowly backing away.
4	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Thank you.
5	MR. FELTON: You're welcome.
6	CHAIRMAN BARTH: I think I do you know, if
7	restart is the right word, then, you know, we
8	certainly have heightened oversight with new
9	charters. And this is not formally a new charter but
10	it seems to have a spirit of a new charter. And so I
11	do have concerns about stepping away in this way, but
12	I don't have a vote.
13	So I will leave it up to my fellow board members
14	for a motion.
15	MR. BLACK: So moved.
16	CHAIRMAN BARTH: So the motion is to review or
17	to not review?
18	MR. BLACK: To review.
19	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Motion to review.
20	Is there a second?
21	(A FEW MOMENTS OF SILENCE)
22	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. That motion fails.
23	MS. ZOOK: I move not to review in light of the
24	fact that there will be ongoing reporting. And also
25	it was pointed out that they are getting new

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1	students. They have a more active, more diverse
2	board, and the new administration and teachers I
3	think he said he had 90-something percent of your
4	teachers are coming back.
5	MR. FELTON: They're all coming back.
6	MS. ZOOK: They're all, a hundred percent. So
7	in light of all that, I move not to review and to be
8	looking forward to your reports.
9	MS. DEAN: Second.
10	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Motion by Ms. Zook,
11	second by Ms. Dean.
12	All those in favor say "aye."
13	(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
14	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed, same sign. Any
15	opposed?
16	Okay. Thank you. Good luck, Mr. Felton. We
17	look forward and I'll try to get down to visit.
18	MR. FELTON: Oh, please do.
19	CHAIRMAN BARTH: I'm just a few blocks away
20	MR. FELTON: Yeah, come on down.
21	CHAIRMAN BARTH: so I will come visit. All
22	right.
23	MR. FELTON: And thank you, guys, for all the
24	help. Like I said before, we never felt like we were
25	alone; the Department I can call anybody at any

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1	time. So I appreciate it.
2	CHAIRMAN BARTH: That's the way it's supposed to
3	work. Thank you so much.
4	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. I'm going to need
5	some guidance from Ms. McLaughlin. So we do have
6	folks from England here; correct?
7	MS. McLAUGHLIN: Yes.
8	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. What's your sense of the
9	length of this item?
10	MS. McLAUGHLIN: It's for Teacher Licensure, so
11	
12	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay.
13	MS. McLAUGHLIN: probably unless you guys
14	had a lot of questions for them, their presentation
15	is very brief and straightforward.
16	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. That sounds great.
17	COMMISSIONER KEY: And I think, likewise, number
18	5 is pretty straightforward. I think we if we
19	could knock those out before lunch and we could let
20	the school folks get them back.
21	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Yeah. Yeah. That was exactly
22	my hope, so all right.
23	A-4: DISTRICT REQUEST FOR WAIVERS GRANTED TO OPEN-ENROLLMENT
24	CHARTERS: ENGLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
25	CHAIRMAN BARTH: So we are to an Act 1240 waiver

for the England School District waiver request. And I'll turn it over to Ms. McLaughlin.

MS. McLAUGHLIN: Okay. Thank you very much.

Today we have England School District here to ask for waivers. As a reminder, the school district will have 20 minutes to make their presentation. Any opposition will also have 20 minutes, and then the district will have 5 minutes to respond before the Q&A begins.

Act 1240 of 2015 allows a school district to petition the State Board of Education for all or some of the waivers granted to open-enrollment public charter schools that serve students who reside in their school district. Representatives of the England School District are appearing before you today for a petition for waivers of Teacher Licensure. Their 90 days expire on June 10th, and they are requesting for five years. We do have Tyler Scott, superintendent, and Jeff Adams, principal, and you will want to swear them in.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. All right. If anyone who plans to offer testimony will stand and raise their right hand on this item? Or, are they here?

COMMISSIONER KEY: They were.

UNKNOWN MALE: They left.

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1	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Oh, they left.
2	MS. McLAUGHLIN: I'm so sorry.
3	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Oh, that's fine. I apologize.
4	I didn't know if we were
5	MS. McLAUGHLIN: I told them earlier to be
6	prepared to come back after lunch.
7	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Well, I guess they took
8	that made that choice, so that's fine.
9	Then we can move to item
10	MS. ZOOK: Do we need to move to table that?
11	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Yeah, I think we do. Correct,
12	Ms. Zook.
13	MS. ZOOK: I move to table England until after
14	lunch.
15	MR. WILLIAMSON: Second.
16	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Motion by Ms. Zook,
17	second by Mr. Williamson.
18	All in favor say "aye."
19	(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
20	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Thank you.
21	A-5: REQUEST OF THE BRINKLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR WAIVER OF
22	INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS
23	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Now we are to item 5 and
24	this is a Brinkley School District request, and Ms.
25	Freno will walk us through this. And this is not an

1	Act 1240; this is a more traditional waiver.
2	MS. FRENO: That is correct, Dr. Barth. This is
3	a waiver being sought under Arkansas Code 6-15-202
4	and the Standards for Accreditation. The school
5	districts may request a waiver of up to one year from
6	the Standards for Accreditation for certain items,
7	one of which is the one that they're here before you
8	today on, which is the 178 instructional days
9	required by the Standards. And the Brinkley School
10	District has requested a waiver of three
11	instructional days.
12	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. And do I need to swear
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14	MS. FRENO: I would, yes. Yes.
15	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Okay. Great.
16	Welcome, and please raise your right hand. Do you
17	swear or affirm that the testimony you're about to
18	give shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing
19	but the truth?
20	DR. GOODWIN: I do.
21	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. If you'll just identify
22	yourself for the record, that will be great.
23	DR. GOODWIN: I'm Dr. Debbie Goodwin,
24	superintendent at the Brinkley School District.
25	As just a very short explanation, AMI days

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okay -- when the first call came out for AMI days I, like several other superintendents, misunderstood that we had to present something with technology. didn't have technology at home, so I didn't present When the second announcement came out that you could apply still for AMI days I had had unexpected surgery and was in the hospital and a deadline had gone before I got back and could submit that AMI. So I realize we cannot do AMI days for snow days. have four snow days to make-up; we've got those to make-up. But we -- it's been a strange year for us at Brinkley with facilities; I'll just put it that way. We have termite infestation -- we're involved now with a lawsuit with our termite carrier -- and a lot of things, leaking roofs. I don't even want to go there.

We had three days that were unforeseen, could not be helped, and I'm asking for a waiver for those three days.

The first was for a board member who passed away with cancer. He was a lifetime member of the community. We are a small school. We had a lot -- all of the -- we had so many teachers that wanted to go to the funeral, and so many students that wanted to go to the funeral, that I could not find enough

subs. So we were -- we didn't -- we could not have school that day.

The second day, the local gas company took the meter out of the road, disconnected it. We had no heat in the building and it was 39 degrees that morning. In our building that's nearly 100 years old we couldn't -- we had no heat. And so that was the next one.

The third one -- well, the day after the sewer backed up and we had to decontaminate the school because it all came into the elementary school. Then something happened to the water company and they -- their -- everything shutdown, so we were on a boil order for -- and I had school one day with the boil order in effect and it was just total chaos. And so we -- I canceled school that day.

So we have three days that we're -- that I'm asking for mercy so that we can -- we will make up our four snow days, but asking for mercy on those three so that we don't end up going that much further into June for our -- and so I'm asking you for that.

And then I do have a comment as a southeast superintendent, if you would like to hear it, about the way with the ABC thing, later.

But my request is to be granted a waiver for

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1	those three days.
2	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Are there questions?
3	Anyone over here first?
4	All right. Then, Ms. Zook.
5	MS. ZOOK: Yeah. Did you have your five days
6	built in that you're required?
7	DR. GOODWIN: Yes, I did. But by the time these
8	happened in January we were already past several of
9	those. And we have used we are using the which
10	is next Monday, we're using those as one of the snow
11	days to try to get us to where we can be out by June
12	3rd and not have to go into the next week.
13	MS. ZOOK: And did you take a spring break?
14	DR. GOODWIN: We did have a spring break, yes.
15	MS. ZOOK: And did you take a Good Friday?
16	DR. GOODWIN: Yes, by a vote of faculty.
17	MS. ZOOK: Okay.
18	DR. GOODWIN: Not on recommendation of the
19	superintendent.
20	MS. ZOOK: And help me understand this packet
21	one, two, three and four on dates that have already
22	passed.
23	DR. GOODWIN: Those that's irrelevant to this
24	because I'm saying I understand we can't do that. So
25	all I'm asking for is just the first three days on

the -- not snow days, just the days that were the funeral and the two days on the utilities in the building.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Commissioner?

COMMISSIONER KEY: Yeah, let me try to clarify. When we received that letter that's in your packet the -- we misinterpreted that to be requesting AMI days. And after a conversation that Dr. Goodwin and I had, you know, it became clear to me that it was just those three days. And she said, you know, how do -- I think she originally -- we were thinking maybe the Commissioner could waive it, and when we researched it we realized no, the Commissioner can't do that; it has to come to the Board. And so those are the only three days that are at issue here. the discussion in that letter about those make-up packets, as Dr. Goodwin said, are irrelevant to this request that's before you today. That letter just constituted the 30 -- they had -- she had to make a request within 30 days of the meeting and that letter was --

DR. GOODWIN: They already had it.

COMMISSIONER KEY: -- deemed to be the request.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. Zook, any other -- anything

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1	MS. ZOOK: No.
2	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Ms. Dean? Ms. Reith?
3	MS. REITH: No, maybe just more than anything
4	our sympathies for everything that you're going
5	through and appreciation for that perspective of the
6	real challenges that you're facing day-to-day.
7	DR. GOODWIN: I stopped short of going through
8	it all. You don't want to hear it.
9	MS. REITH: No, but even the context that you
10	did give us I appreciate that. I don't think we hear
11	about that enough at this level, so I appreciated
12	that additional information. And just to express my
13	desire, Dr. Barth, if there is a chance for her to go
14	into, she said, her thoughts on the ABC program. I
15	really appreciate you making the trek up here and any
16	chance for us to learn more from you we should take
17	advantage of it.
18	DR. GOODWIN: Very short comment.
19	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Any other Ms. Newton,
20	do you have anything on this?
21	Ms. NEWTON: No.
22	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay.
23	MS. ZOOK: Do we know what your growth and
24	achievement scores are and what
25	DR. GOODWIN: On the report card that came out

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yesterday? We had a C at the elementary, which is where it stayed from last time. We actually raised from a D to a C at the high school level and we're very glad of that. I could give you a big long I was the improvement specialist at this school district for three years before I became the superintendent. And there are major, major issues, mostly associated with culture, as the Noble group pointed out. And so that's what I'm working on. But in the meantime I didn't know that our facilities were in the shape they were in when I took the job, and it is a major, major issue. MS. ZOOK: And do you think that your grade is reflective of a gap between your -- well, I guess you're probably at almost 100% of low socioeconomic. Is that right? DR. GOODWIN: We operate that way. But in direct certification we are less than -- we're like 78%. MS. ZOOK: Right. But is there a gap between your -- that subgroup and your high achievers, a gap between your minority and your high achievers? Or is it the gap --DR. GOODWIN: Very minimal. MS. ZOOK: -- that's causing the C or is it lack of growth or scores?

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Our groups, our subgroups and our DR. GOODWIN: entire population, almost always identical. We -it's a situation economically where Brinkley has lost -- we've lost 50 students just about per year. have -- we were at 600 students maybe five years ago; we are at 460 as of today. All of these people have moved off someplace, but we do not have the economy. So what I'm saying is what kind of students you normally see in the high achieving, we don't have those. Our population is pretty much the same across the board and low SES and very little professional parents, that kind of thing. So our -- we don't really have a gap; everybody is the same. We're just low.

MS. ZOOK: So you are seeing this as an opportunity to grow and dig down into the data?

DR. GOODWIN: We have to find a way to reach our students. And I will tell you that -- and I know this is going to be televised, but the thing that I fight the most is the mindset within the building towards the students, and that's -- low expectations is what I fight the most. And so we're -- I'm trying.

MS. ZOOK: Thank you for --

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All right. I think the proper motion is to accept this waiver request or to not. But I think --Commissioner, do you have a comment?

COMMISSIONER KEY: Well, just to clarify too that, in the terms of being transparent, I think Dr. Goodwin was -- in our conversation we were going to ask for the two on the utilities, and I said, you know, "If you want to ask for the three, including that funeral day, you know, that's a conversation that the Board would need to have." That is an unusual request. We get requests for utilities, flooding; you know, I think a couple of years ago we had -- Ashdown came because of extensive flooding. And so just -- you know, you can do -- you So, yeah. have choices. So, you know, you don't have to take it as all the days or none of the days. You know, so if you want to have a conversation about that -- and I should have mentioned that at the outset or asked Lori to clarify that. But I think I'm correct in that, right, Ms. Freno, that they have options of -it's not an either/or all three days or zero days?

MS. FRENO: That's correct.

COMMISSIONER KEY: Okay. Thank you. I just wanted to make sure that was clarified.

Thank you. DR. GOODWIN:

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1	MS. DEAN: I move to approve all the waivers
2	the waiver for all three days.
3	MS. NEWTON: Second.
4	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Motion by Ms. Dean,
5	second by Ms. Newton.
6	Any amendments or anything else?
7	All those in favor say "aye."
8	(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
9	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed, same sign.
10	Ms. Zook?
11	MS. ZOOK: No, I voted aye.
12	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. All right.
13	MS. ZOOK: I was just going to ask her a
14	question or take back a message.
15	DR. GOODWIN: Yes.
16	MS. ZOOK: I'm not speaking for the Board; I'm
17	speaking for me. But when you do have these issues
18	and you are going to have to come, which makes
19	perfect sense, I think it would be good if the
20	faculty who voted to get off Good Friday understood
21	that if I can tell them we gave a little to get a
22	little that that would go a lot further with the
23	educator in my heart.
24	DR. GOODWIN: I fully understand. And as I said
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1	CHAIRMAN BARTH: And Ms. Zook said
2	DR. GOODWIN: it wasn't my recommendation.
3	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. Zook said exactly what I
4	wanted
5	DR. GOODWIN: Did you want to hear the comment
6	on the oh, I'm sorry, you haven't
7	CHAIRMAN BARTH: I do want to say I think the
8	Good Friday thing is frustrating.
9	DR. GOODWIN: It was very frustrating for me.
10	MS. ZOOK: Don't get me wrong, I'm a Christian;
11	I'm all about Good Friday. But either one of the
12	spring break days or Good Friday day or you know,
13	in Melbourne we move the funerals to Saturday.
14	DR. GOODWIN: You feel my pain. Okay?
15	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right.
16	DR. GOODWIN: This is what I'm dealing with.
17	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. And quickly on the
18	ABC program we'll be happy to
19	DR. GOODWIN: On the ABC thing
20	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Yeah.
21	DR. GOODWIN: what I was going to say is when
22	that came up, the time limit, it was a short time.
23	The fact that we have we operate on a very
24	skeleton staff. I've had to cut almost \$300,000 from
25	the budget for three years in a row. I don't have

anyone who had the time to write the grant. And so as a southeast Arkansas school I felt like that you might be interested in knowing that. Although I could write it, I didn't have the time either.

Thank you so much.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Congratulations and good luck on the millage vote.

DR. GOODWIN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. We're adjourned for lunch. We will return at 1:00 and we will pick up with the England Act 1240 waivers.

(LUNCH BREAK: 12:26 - 1:08 p.m.)

CHAIRMAN BARTH: I'll call us back to order.

And so we have -- just to talk through how we're
going to get started this afternoon, we have the item
that we tabled from this morning, the England Act
1240 waiver. Then we're going to go into the first
action agenda item, which is -- for the afternoon,
which is the robotics courses and standards. And
then Mr. Owen's schedule is such that he is on later
in the afternoon with a report on the computer
science initiative. It would help him tremendously
if he could go ahead and do that report when he does
his action item to save him a trip back and forth
from the Capitol. So that's just to let y'all know

1	where we're headed.
2	A-4: DISTRICT REQUEST FOR WAIVERS GRANTED TO OPEN-ENROLLMENT
3	CHARTERS: ENGLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
4	CHAIRMAN BARTH: But we pick back up with the
5	England School District issue and I will now turn it
6	over to Ms. McLaughlin.
7	MS. McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Dr. Barth. My name
8	is Kelly McLaughlin; I'm with the ADE Charter School
9	Office. And today we do have the England School
10	District here to request waivers for Teacher
11	Licensure. Their 90 days does expire on June 10th
12	and they have requested for five years. We have
13	Superintendent Tyler Scott and Jeff Adams, the
14	principal here to make their presentation. And
15	you'll want to swear them in.
16	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. All right. If both of
17	y'all could go ahead and stand and raise your right
18	hand. Do you swear or affirm that the testimony
19	you're about to give shall be the truth, the whole
20	truth and nothing but the truth?
21	(ALL SPEAKERS ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY)
22	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. Thank you. If you'll
23	just identify yourself again for the record, that'll
24	be great.
25	SUPT. SCOTT: Tyler Scott, superintendent of

1 England School District.

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MR. ADAMS: And I'm Jeff Adams, the elementary principal at England.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. And so y'all do have up to 20 minutes if you need it.

SUPT. SCOTT: Probably won't need it. going to -- I've been at England for 10 years in coaching, teaching, assistant principal, and now as the superintendent. It's difficult to find teachers to come out to England. It seems like we're hiring people last-minute every year -- or this -- we hired somebody as late as September this year. actually one person in particular that kind of sparked us to go after the 1240 waiver. We do lose kids to several of the charter schools, Scott Charter, Lisa Academy, eSTEM. We have a teacher that she's actually working for The Point, behavioral special -- or behavior interventionist/therapist. She is -- we actually have an ALE opening at the She already pulls and works with all elementary. those kids and she has a Masters degree and she's going back and taking her Praxis exams and everything, and that's what kind of sparked us to go after the 1240 waiver. But I do think it would be beneficial for the district to have that to fall back

1	on when it comes August and we're looking for a math
2	teacher, trying to having difficulties finding
3	people to fill spots.
4	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Anything else?
5	SUPT. SCOTT: (shaking head from side to side)
6	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Just if I could just clarify
7	the before turning it over to others: the breadth
8	of the waiver request, first the length and then also
9	the breadth of it, is it for is it pretty much all
10	grades or
11	SUPT. SCOTT: I would have it for all grades,
12	yes, and the length would be for five years.
13	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. All right. Great.
14	Ms. Reith?
15	MS. REITH: Just one question on the process.
16	Are your teachers aware that you've come forward with
17	this request?
18	SUPT. SCOTT: Yes. The teachers involving
19	the lady that I just mentioned, as far as doing the
20	ALE part of it, she is tied to our community. She
21	actually lives in Little Rock. She said she would
22	love to come to the England District because she
23	knows that we have kids that need a lot of help and
24	but our teachers think the world of her and they
25	do, they're in support of her us going after the

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1	1240 waiver for her.
2	MS. ZOOK: So this is a core subject?
3	SUPT. SCOTT: No, ma'am. It's for ALE. And our
4	ALE actually has
5	MS. ZOOK: Oh, I'm sorry, I thought you said
6	English. I apologize. I wasn't didn't
7	SUPT. SCOTT: No, our ALE actually has it has
8	aids in there and they also are pulled to some of
9	their core subjects, math and English and stuff.
10	MS. ZOOK: I was in a meeting recently and
11	learned the full scope of ALEs. I think when we hear
12	ALE we think the kids with behavior problems.
13	SUPT. SCOTT: Right.
14	MS. ZOOK: But I know it's much broader than
15	that. Is yours broad like the full definition of ALE
16	or are you just working on kids with behavior
17	problems?
18	SUPT. SCOTT: No, ma'am. It's the full spectrum
19	of it. We have students that have to miss a lot for
20	sick and like our high school ALE we have what's
21	known as the hub to where they we have like
22	teenage girls that have had children and it allows
23	them and so we have our JAG program through that
24	where it allows them to get credit for going to work,
25	and it's molded to fit their schedule.

1	MS. ZOOK: And is this teacher interested in
2	becoming an alternative route teacher or certified
3	teacher, or what do you know?
4	SUPT. SCOTT: She I think she would prefer
5	the alternative route, but she just wants to be a
6	teacher. She feels connected to England and she's
7	really wanting to be there.
8	MS. ZOOK: Thank you. That's all.
9	CHAIRMAN BARTH: So I just want to come back; I
10	was a little confused or I'm newly confused, I
11	guess. So the scope of the request, is it simply for
12	this one position or are you is your request
13	(COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Dr. Barth turns on his
14	microphone.)
15	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Oh, I apologize. Is your
16	request for this one position or is it more wide-
17	ranging?
18	SUPT. SCOTT: It would be more wide-ranging, but
19	this incident is what kind of led us to look into the
20	1240 waivers.
21	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay.
22	SUPT. SCOTT: And then the more I looked into
23	it, the more I read about it, I thought it would be
24	very beneficial for our district.
25	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. And it's for all grades

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1	from K through 12?
2	SUPT. SCOTT: Yes, sir.
3	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. All right. Ms.
4	Chambers, anything? Dr. Hill?
5	DR. HILL: No, sir.
6	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. Newton?
7	MS. NEWTON: Just a quick comment. I would
8	encourage you to contact the Licensure Division and
9	discuss with them, because with the recent changes in
10	licensure there have been so many more additions that
11	different routes that teachers can go, or people
12	who are seeking to get into the teaching field.
13	There are just lots of different ways that it can be
14	done. And so that might be also another thing that
15	you can look into
16	SUPT. SCOTT: Okay.
17	MS. NEWTON: when you come next fall and
18	start looking for teachers.
19	SUPT. SCOTT: Okay. Thank you.
20	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. Cochran.
21	MS. COCHRAN: I'm just curious what your
22	recruitment plan and your retention plan is like in
23	England?
24	SUPT. SCOTT: Well, retention plan, it's
25	we've actually looked at one of our neighboring

schools that give a bonus for -- like if you've been there for five years you get this much, then once you get there to six. We are -- because we're lower on the salary schedule, kind of a stair-stepper school that people come to get experience fresh out of college. A lot of our recruitment though is we call Harding, we call UALR, we call a bunch of the surrounding colleges asking -- UAPB -- for their teachers that are graduating, if they have anybody that would be interested in coming to England. And that's our recruitment.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. I see Dr. Pfeffer back there. And I want to pick up on Ms. Newton's point and really ask the question about the necessity for this waiver with the new changes that are underway with licensure.

DR. PFEFFER: Yes. Ivy Pfeffer, Deputy

Commissioner. It's my understanding that Dr. Owoh

did reach out to the district to talk to them about

options. And he is not able to be with us; he's -
so I don't know the details of that conversation, so

-- and I'm not exactly familiar with this exact

situation. Because I know that there are probably

circumstances that the law and our new rules may not

work for in every case. However, if we do continue

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with the blanket waivers for extended periods of time for all positions in a district, the district does not have to even consider any of the licensure exceptions or other new ways in order to work through that process. So that's just something you might want to consider, you know, when these waivers are requested. Because in granting those waivers, if we continue to do that, it really negates the whole process that we're going through with changing the law and the rules around licensure. I think from my perspective we always want to help a district and we're going to do whatever we can to help make that possible. But if we want to change the story in Arkansas we need to change the practice. And I think continuing with blanket waivers is kind of something that we really need to think about, is that what we want to continue to do, so -- but I would pledge that whatever situations they have we would work with them, whether or not it truly was an Act 1240 need or whether it could be met by a licensure exception under our new rules. CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Could you -- did you get a chance to talk to Dr. Owoh? SUPT. SCOTT: I spoke with him, yes. It was a

couple of days ago. He -- we talked about the

different possibilities and I didn't think that they would help in this particular situation.

and I think that Dr. Pfeffer has a -- we need to heed her warning about -- in fact, if you, you know, just open anything up it really doesn't require districts to be into -- to be creative and really get teachers on the right path, those who really want to spend time in the profession long-term, onto that right path. Because I think in this case it sounds like things -- this is an exception, a case where there probably is an interest in becoming a licensed teacher. But it does really open up a lot of potential -- not -- I won't go so far as to say abuses, but maybe not taking advantage of the opportunities that are present in the new system.

Any other -- Ms. Newton?

MS. NEWTON: Just a -- I guess it would be for Ms. Freno. I'm not sure who would answer it. Can we give a waiver just for that particular teacher or do we -- does it have to be the blanket? How can -- what can we do?

MS. DAVIS: Hi. Jennifer Davis, Staff Attorney for the Department. Traditionally what you've done under Act 1240 is, you know, if you think that you

may not grant what they have presented, they can choose to limit their waiver request until such time they can maybe work with the Department or come back and bring you something else. We typically have not granted -- initiated on your own a limitation; they have to agree and suggest that. But, you know, keep in mind if, you know, you are not going to grant this waiver then they may want to consider a partial of sorts.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay.

MS. ZOOK: The question I have is they listed
Lisa and I think he said eSTEM too. Do those
particular charters have a non -- a waiver for nonlicensed educators in their core subjects? Because I
know they can't get one for special ed. But do they
have them -- because you don't just have to have a
child in a charter; you have to have a child in a
charter that has that waiver.

MS. DAVIS: Right. I would have to go and look and see specifically if either of those schools do have waivers for the core subjects. I know, you know, up until recently, you know, under HQT there was not a waiver for the core subjects and there's still compliance with AQT. So I would have to look specifically to see if there are any in either of

those core subjects. But now keep in mind those are also -- because they are generated through the charter schools there's a lot more scrutiny and they have to come back for renewal and how they use them. And it is much more -- there's much more oversight than there is under a 1240 waiver.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. So I think you've heard the possibility of limiting your request in a way that might be more comfortable for this board and also create more conversation between you and the Department about your bigger issue that you've articulated. I mean are y'all willing to do that limitation or do you want to maintain the request for the --

SUPT. SCOTT: Me and him actually talked about it on the way up here, is I said the one thing I don't like about this is I don't want it to turn into we'd just use it all the time. I don't want uncertified people in the building. I want -- obviously I want everybody to be certified. I would be fine with limiting it to this one situation or case here because I do think she would greatly benefit our school district.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay.

MS. ZOOK: And then you can always come back if

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1	you wind up needing something after you have your
2	conversation, was my understanding. Right? It's not
3	like once in and that's it. So
4	SUPT. SCOTT: Right.
5	CHAIRMAN BARTH: So, Ms. Davis, could you pop
6	back up? Thank you.
7	So it sounds like you're willing to make that
8	revision. That's now part of the record?
9	MS. DAVIS: Yes. So if they affirmatively state
10	that they are limiting their request to the ALE
11	position, even if it is for all grades, then any
12	approval that they get will be only for ALE. And if
13	they decided later they wanted to use it either in a
14	core course or a non-core course they would still
15	have to come back and request.
16	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Yeah, Ms. Chambers.
17	MS. CHAMBERS: Is it for the same period of
18	time?
19	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Five years is the request?
20	SUPT. SCOTT: Right. Yes, sir.
21	CHAIRMAN BARTH: So I think the choice of the
22	Board first off, there is no opposition, right, on
23	this one?
24	MS. DAVIS: No.
25	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. The choice of the Board

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1	is to a motion for the original waiver request, a
2	motion for the waiver request as self-amended but
3	in either case the request is for five years.
4	SUPT. SCOTT: Can I state why I chose five
5	years?
6	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Uh-huh.
7	SUPT. SCOTT: I did five years that way because
8	she has aspirations of becoming a teacher; she's
9	talked to us about the process. And the reason I
10	chose the five years is because it would protect her
11	in the sense it would give her enough time to make
12	sure she passed all her tests and gets completely
13	certified.
14	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Great. I'd
15	entertain a motion of any sort.
16	MS. NEWTON: I move that we grant the waiver for
17	this one ALE position.
18	MS. CHAMBERS: Second.
19	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. So motion on the floor,
20	second, as self-limited by their request today.
21	Any further discussion?
22	Okay. All those in favor say "aye."
23	(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
24	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed, same sign.
25	Okay. Congratulations and thanks for being

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1	helpful in getting us to a point where I think we
2	could all be more comfortable with this decision.
3	SUPT. SCOTT: Yes, sir. Thank y'all for
4	allowing us to come.
5	MS. ZOOK: Sorry we took so long.
6	SUPT. SCOTT: That's fine. That's fine.
7	CHAIRMAN BARTH: That's right.
8	SUPT. SCOTT: Thank you.
9	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Thank you.
10	B-1: CONSIDERATION OF THE ARKANSAS COMPUTER SCIENCE ROBOTICS
11	LEVELS 3 AND 4 COURSES AND STANDARDS
12	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. We are now we're to
13	the afternoon action agenda, Agenda B. And our first
14	up is the Computer Science Robotics Levels 3 and 4
15	Courses and Standards. I'll turn it over to Mr.
16	Owen. And we'll deal with this and then move to your
17	report.
18	MR. OWEN: Thank you, Dr. Barth. Thank you,
19	Board. Anthony Owen, State Director of Computer
20	Science Education. With your board packet we
21	submitted appendices for Robotics Level 3 and Level
22	4. We brought together a small committee that wrote
23	these appendix statements at no cost to the state; we
24	used online resources and did these from a distance.
25	Obviously this is just a continuation of the Level 1

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1	and Level 2 appendices for robotics. We had a lot of
2	schools that offered Robotics 1 and 2 for the first
3	year and were asking what they were supposed to do
4	for year-two. So this is just meeting the needs of
5	our schools in our state as they are implementing
6	more options for our students.
7	(COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Board Member Brett
8	Williamson left the meeting at 1:25 p.m.)
9	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. I'll start over
10	here. Anyone on this side have questions about this
11	proposal as laid out in the documents? Ms. Reith or
12	Ms. Zook, either of you?
13	Okay. I would entertain a motion on this
14	request for approval of these courses and standards.
15	MS. NEWTON: I move to approve.
16	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Motion by Ms.
17	Newton.
18	DR. HILL: Second.
19	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Second by Dr. Hill.
20	All in favor say "aye."
21	(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
22	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed, same sign.
23	All right. And now we'll transition to your
24	report.
25	(OFF THE RECORD - 1:26 P.M.)

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1	(BACK ON THE RECORD - 1:40 P.M.)
2	B-2: REQUEST FOR REINSTATEMENT OF SUCCEED SCHOLARSHIP
3	CHAIRMAN BARTH: We are now down to item 2 and
4	this is a request for Succeed Scholarship
5	Reinstatements. We have two cases today. And so I
6	will turn it over to Ms. Salas-Ford to walk us
7	through our procedures.
8	MS. SALAS-FORD: Good afternoon, Board Members.
9	Courtney Salas-Ford for the Department. Yes, before
10	you we have two requests to transfer the Succeed
11	Scholarship, similar to what we saw a few months ago.
12	In both of these cases the student is at an improved
13	school but has reached the maximum grade level for
14	that school.
15	a) GONZALEZ FAMILY
16	MS. SALAS-FORD: And so one the first one for
17	the Gonzalez family, they are requesting a transfer
18	to a high school from the currently approved junior
19	high that they are at. Ms. Gonzalez is here if you
20	have any questions. And with that, I'll leave it to
21	you.
22	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. And so just in terms of
23	procedures here, is it really just to there's no
24	overt testimony or should we
25	MS. SALAS-FORD: No, there is no testimony

1	required. Again it's just something that was put in
2	the rules that in order to transfer schools that the
3	State Board had to approve it. And just for future
4	reference that's I don't think something that was
5	contemplated was aging out of a school and moving to
6	a new one. And so as we look at revising those rules
7	we're going to look at maybe a more efficient way of
8	doing that versus having the family have to come
9	before you.
10	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. So no need to swear
11	anyone?
12	MS. SALAS-FORD: No.
13	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. All right. Okay. And
14	so we have for the Gonzalez family first; right?
15	MS. SALAS-FORD: Yes.
16	CHAIRMAN BARTH: If you would like to come
17	forward and state your name just in case members of
18	the Board do have questions for you.
19	MS. GONZALEZ: Jenny Gonzalez.
20	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. Thank you, Ms.
21	Gonzalez. Thanks for being here.
22	I will start with Ms. Reith, do you have any
23	questions about this request? Ms. Dean? Ms. Zook?
24	MS. ZOOK: It would be unusual for a child with
25	an IEP to already have had their IEP conference

1 projecting for next year. Is there some reason that they've already had your conference for you? 2 MS. GONZALEZ: I'm not sure with that. 3 MS. ZOOK: Well, if you have a child to benefit 4 from the Succeed Scholarship they need to have an 5 And every -- your child obviously has one, but 6 7 at the end of each year you have an IEP conference where the decision is made what service they need, if 8 9 they need to continue service, if they -- the new 10 testing has taken them out of that. So it's April, and April is unusually early for an IEP conference to 11 have been held already, knowing that the child will 12 13 still need service. And you're going to a school that's a great school but is not known for their 14 15 special ed. service. Ms. Zook, if you'll recall 16 MS. SALAS-FORD: under the Succeed Scholarship they have to have had 17 18 an IEP when they were in public school. But now that they are in a private school the requirements of IDEA 19 no longer apply, so an annual conference is not 20 21 I'm not saying that they didn't have one, 22 but it's not required by the private school to have a 23 conference for the upcoming year. 24 CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. 25 MS. ZOOK: That's my only question.

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1	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Ms. Chambers? Okay.
2	Ms. Cochran, anything?
3	All right. So you see the request before us,
4	and I will leave it to the Board.
5	MS. CHAMBERS: I move that we approve a
6	reinstatement of the student's scholarship.
7	MS. DEAN: Second.
8	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Motion by Ms. Chambers,
9	second by Ms. Dean.
10	All those in favor say "aye."
11	(MAJORITY CHORUS OF AYES)
12	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Any opposed?
13	MS. ZOOK: Aye.
14	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Note for the record that Ms.
15	Zook opposes the motion.
16	Congratulations. Good luck with the school year
17	ahead.
18	b) HERNANDEZ FAMILY
19	CHAIRMAN BARTH: And we now move to the
20	Hernandez family.
21	MS. SALAS-FORD: Yes. And Mrs. Hernandez is on
22	the phone is that correct, Kelicia?
23	MS. HOLLIS: Yes.
24	MS. SALAS-FORD: if anyone has any questions.
25	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Welcome, Ms. Hernandez.

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1	Ms. HERNANDEZ: Hi.
2	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Thank you. Thanks for joining
3	us today.
4	I will start over here. Ms. Cochran, anything?
5	Okay. Ms. Newton? Anyone else on this side?
6	Ms. Zook, do you have a question here?
7	(INAUDIBLE SOUND FROM THE CONFERENCE PHONE)
8	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Excuse me?
9	All right. We're just seeing if there are
10	questions from the Board.
11	I'm not seeing any questions from the Board and
12	so I will entertain a motion on this case.
13	MS. DEAN: I move to approve the reinstatement.
14	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Motion by Ms. Dean.
15	MS. CHAMBERS: Second.
16	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Second by Ms. Chambers.
17	All those in favor say "aye."
18	(MAJORITY CHORUS OF AYES)
19	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Is there opposition?
20	Ms. Zook, do you opposed or not?
21	MS. ZOOK: I still can't pull it up on here.
22	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay.
23	MS. ZOOK: So I don't know what school they were
24	going to.
25	CHAIRMAN BARTH: We're having some internet

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1	issues.
2	So why don't we start over with a motion as I
3	want everybody to have access to the case.
4	MS. ZOOK: Well, if Ms. Salas-Ford can just tell
5	me what school they're going to
6	MS. SALAS-FORD: She's he's going to Trinity
7	Junior High in Fort Smith.
8	MS. ZOOK: Okay.
9	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay.
10	MS. ZOOK: That's all I wanted to know.
11	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Okay. Then we have a
12	motion from Ms. Dean, second from Ms. Chambers.
13	All those in favor say "aye."
14	(MAJORITY CHORUS OF AYES)
15	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed same sign.
16	MS. ZOOK: Aye.
17	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. A no vote for Ms. Zook.
18	Okay. Again, thank you for joining us, Ms.
19	Hernandez, and congratulations.
20	MS. HERNANDEZ: Thank you.
21	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Thank you.
22	B-3: CONSIDERATION FOR FINAL APPROVAL: ADE RULES GOVERNING
23	HOME SCHOOLS
24	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. The next item up is also
25	Ms. Salas-Ford and these are the Final Approval

Consideration on the ADE Rules Governing Home
Schools.

MS. SALAS-FORD: Yes, Board. The ADE Rules
Governing Home Schools were approved on December 14,
2017. A few public comments were received, both in
writing and during the public comment hearing, and
that's indicated on the sheet in your packet. Some
changes, minor changes were made. That did not
result in substantive changes. And so we are
requesting final approval of these rules pending ALC
review and approval.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. I'll start here. Mr. Black, any questions?

MR. BLACK: I think I'm okay.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Ms. Chambers? Dr. Hill? Ms. Newton? Ms. Cochran? Ms. Zook?

MS. ZOOK: I've had several people ask me and it seemed unclear -- probably was clear but it just seemed unclear. It's still the parent has to provide the education; it's not I chose to home school and then eight or ten of us send the child out to a different building to get math and another one for science. Has that -- was that rule changed in the legislature at any point where they no longer had to be given the home school by the parent?

1	MS. SALAS-FORD: The language of the statute has
2	not changed and the word that it actually uses is
3	that the parent must provide the education.
4	MS. ZOOK: Right.
5	MS. SALAS-FORD: And so there has been, you
6	know, liberal interpretation of that to mean that if
7	a parent chooses to have someone else provide or
8	actually be providing the instruction then that
9	parent is still arranging for education to be
10	provided to their student. And so that is allowed
11	under the law.
12	MS. ZOOK: Has it been challenged?
13	MS. SALAS-FORD: Not to my knowledge, not in our
14	state.
15	MS. ZOOK: Okay. Because I know in the areas
16	where I live and know more about they there's like
17	15 kids go to a site and they are home school kids
18	under this law but the parents are not literally
19	providing the instruction.
20	MS. SALAS-FORD: Yeah. I think that's not
21	uncommon even in the Little Rock area that there are
22	large consortiums and groups of parents that get
23	together and have education provided to their
24	students in a group.
25	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Ms. Dean? Ms. Reith?

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1	Okay.
2	MS. ZOOK: Can we go back and ask for
3	clarification for the Legislature to define
4	"provide?"
5	MS. SALAS-FORD: Commissioner?
6	COMMISSIONER KEY: I guess we can ask. I mean
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8	MS. ZOOK: But I mean is there a way when it's
9	we were talking last night a lot about measurable
10	terms and terms that have broad meanings and one
11	meaning to one person and one meaning to another. It
12	would just seem if we're going to put out rules for
13	schools that we need to be able to tell them what
14	does "provide" mean.
15	COMMISSIONER KEY: Yeah. I don't think I have a
16	good answer for that right now.
17	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Well, I'll give it a shot. I
18	mean if it's not a clear definition can a definition
19	be provided in the rules?
20	MS. SALAS-FORD: Yeah, we could add a definition
21	to the rules and then if the Legislature found it
22	inconsistent with their intent they could certainly
23	make amendments to that.
24	MS. ZOOK: So is this the time to do that or is
25	the time passed to do that?

1 MS. SALAS-FORD: If you vote not to give it final approval, then we would, of course, have to 2 3 look at making any changes. Any additions that are made, we would have to send back to the Governor's 4 5 So it's not too late, unless you vote that it is finally approved and then it will proceed as-6 7 is. 8 COMMISSIONER KEY: And any change would have to 9 start a new --10 MS. SALAS-FORD: Yes, we would have to --11 COMMISSIONER KEY: -- revision process. MS. SALAS-FORD: -- take it back to the 12 13 Governor's office and then back out for public comment again. 14 15 MS. ZOOK: But we really aren't under any time 16 constraints at this point because the way it's being done it will continue to be done until it is changed? 17 18 COMMISSIONER KEY: Stacy, I saw you stand up, so you might have an opinion on that. 19 20 MS. SMITH: Stacy Smith, Learning Services. 21 when parents fill out the Notice of Intent in the waiver form they're waiving their -- they're waiving 22 23 the state's responsibility for the education of their 24 child. And within their statement they're signing 25 that they're responsible for the education of their

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When parents have submitted that Notice of child. Intent in the past on that application there were places on there for the parent to state their curriculum; there was places on there for the parent to state what they were going to use, what they were going to teach to the students. But even in this past session when looking at the Notice of Intent form it was felt that we were asking questions on the applications that we didn't necessarily I guess maybe I mean I don't know if that's have the right to ask. the way to say it. And so a lot of those questions were removed, that the parent basically in the law is notifying the school district that they're taking the responsibility for the education of their child. the new pieces of legislation where a parent is able to work with a school district for that student to attend a period for education, that's between the parent and that school district. And the school district doesn't have to, but they can work with that parent to allow them to come in and participate in the school and the education that they're providing. So the "provide" part, this is not a new as far

as -- I'm aware of many, many applications since I've been here in which it wasn't the parent who was the one providing the education. You have many home

school groups in the state that work together, work collaboratively. You've got many home school parents in the state who take advantage of digital online learning in which there are also certified teachers or programs. So I don't think it's anything new or different with this piece of legislation, but I don't know if I'm helping or --

MS. ZOOK: I think initially though we were -the children were still required to take a test,
which now they're no longer required to. And now
they can go in and participate in extracurricular
activities which originally they couldn't do. So we
have no way of knowing if that child has the grade
point so-to-speak to participate in that
extracurricular activity that we were -- so we're
putting more of a burden on our traditional and
charter public school students than we are on the
requirements of our home school students, and --

MS. SMITH: Yeah, you said it exactly, "we're putting," because we have the responsibility for the students in our public school education system --

MS. ZOOK: Right.

MS. SMITH: -- at our charter schools, because they are public schools, and our traditional public schools.

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1	MS. ZOOK: Right.
2	MS. SMITH: A parent who turns in a Notice of
3	Intent is notifying the state of their intent to
4	educate their child and that they are taking the
5	responsibility for that.
6	CHAIRMAN BARTH: They can rescind that
7	responsibility at any moment.
8	MS. SMITH: And their child can enroll back in
9	the public school system.
10	MS. ZOOK: And they can
11	MS. SMITH: Yes.
12	MS. ZOOK: come in and the school is obliged
13	to let them participate in extracurricular. So it's
14	sort of like
15	MS. SMITH: They're not required that's an
16	agreement between the school district and the home
17	school parent for the extracurricular and if they
18	wanted to come and take individual classes at the
19	school.
20	MS. ZOOK: Right. And then some districts, like
21	Mena, have had home school parents come to them and
22	say, "Well, if you'll do this and this, then" you
23	know, so I guess I just would like all children to
24	have an opportunity and all parents to have a choice;
25	but at the same time I don't want to make the playing

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field different for different kids because of the parent's choice. So that doesn't make me right; that's just what I think.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: And when a student comes back from home -- a home school situation into public schools, what kind of questions can the public school ask them about the curriculum that had been carried out during the period when the student was being home-schooled?

MS. SMITH: So when the student comes back, it's not so much about the curriculum; it's about the placement of that student, and the school's responsibility is to place that student in the reasonable grade for that student. Parents are responsible for providing evidence of learning for their child, including transcripts, that the parent can -- portfolios. And that's part of the new legislation pieces or pieces of responsibility that the parent has to provide to the school. The school also had the ability to assess that student, to place that student at the most appropriate grade. they're encouraged to accept the information that schools -- that parents provide, but they have the ability to assess students and place them. And they have the ability for -- when you get into high school credits to determine what credits they're going to give those students.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Thanks.

Ms. Newton.

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MS. NEWTON: Just a comment. Just past teaching experience, you know, I've had students that the parents choose to home school and I think "oh, no," you know. But that's the parent's choice and once they take that responsibility then I think, you know, sometimes they are doing what's right for the child. You know, they know what's best for their particular child and they have that choice of choosing do I want to do it completely at home, do I want to do it by computer, do I want to do it with another group. That's that parent's right to choose whichever method that they have and I think that's -- to me that's why that word "provide" is there and it's general because that still leaves the parent choice of how do you want to home school your child.

MS. SMITH: And I think this is seldom, but there are times that you would see educational neglect from a parent and there are avenues to address that through our Department of Human Services, and that is something that is investigated if there is a finding.

1	MS. ZOOK: They don't typically investigate
2	those cases. They are supposed to by law, but they
3	typically do not. We've got a lot of that going on
4	up in our area. I'm more familiar with that because
5	of my CASA work than I am my State Board work. But I
6	guess that's the frustration that I deal with.
7	MR. BLACK: Just curious, what is the percentage
8	of students in the state that are home schooled?
9	MS. SMITH: I want to say we've got about
10	30,000.
11	Does that sound about right?
12	CHAIRMAN BARTH: So that would be
13	COMMISSIONER KEY: I think it's I don't think
14	it's quite that many. I think it's
15	MS. SMITH: It's in the high
16	COMMISSIONER KEY: It would be the first the
17	second or third largest school district if they were
18	all so I think it's somewhere around 20. Because
19	the latest figures, Mr. Black, they if all the
20	home school kids were a school district they'd be the
21	second or third largest school district in the state.
22	So I think it's around that 19,000 to 20,000 mark.
23	CHAIRMAN BARTH: So that would be about 3%,
24	something like that, -ish?
25	COMMISSIONER KEY: -ish. Yeah.

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CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. I think Ms. -- Ms. Dean.

I just want to reiterate the point MS. DEAN: that Ms. Smith and Ms. Newton said. This goes back to parents have the right to educate their child in the way that they choose to educate their children. And when they sign that intent to home school form they are relinquishing or taking away the responsibility from the state to be responsibility for their education. They take on the complete responsibility, and that means if they choose to home school them or they choose to pay someone to home school them or they choose to join a home school group or they take advantage of video or whatever it's the parent's responsibility and it's their right.

MS. ZOOK: Right. No, I understand all that and I'm all about choice. My question is has that been challenged. If a kid came back and said, "I didn't get a good education, I don't know how -- I can't get into college, I can't get into the military," has it been challenged by a student to say their parents signed away something and now they are not able to do? I guess that's my concern, just like with the kids who have -- are handicapped. You know, I know -- I get it; I'm all about choice. But I get

1	concerned when it gets watered down and spread out.
2	And I realize that it's based on my personal
3	experience with children who are parents sign up
4	for home school but they don't do it, the kids aren't
5	in school, there's no records kept, there's no
6	testing done. And I see groups of children who
7	likely will become dependent on someone else to take
8	care of them the rest of their life because they're
9	just you know, they were neglected at the time
10	they were young.
11	So, no, I'm with you and Ms. Newton about choice
12	and parents making good decisions and kids
13	benefitting from that. I just am frustrated about
14	the way it is done in probably a minority of the
15	instances.
16	MS. DEAN: Very small minority.
17	MS. ZOOK: Yeah. But
18	MS. DEAN: Because
19	MS. ZOOK: Yeah.
20	MS. DEAN: if you look at the testing you
21	said testing was taken away. If you look at the 25-
22	plus years of testing that home school students did
23	in comparison to public and regular students, they
24	always tested a little bit better
25	MS. ZOOK: Yeah.

MS. DEAN: -- consistently.

MS. ZOOK: Right.

MS. DEAN: There's so many honor students, there's the Governor's distinguished honor students that come out of home school. So it's a system that works and it's a system that is a choice, once again.

But we're going to get back to what the point is: as members on the State Board of Education we are walking outside of our realm, because once they sign that intent to home school form it's out of our hands and I think that's what we need to really focus on at this point. Because there are so many students that fall through the cracks, so many more students that fall through the cracks in public schools and other situations. But I think we're getting away from the point that once they sign the intent to home school that's their responsibility to provide. And as long as it's provided -- and if it doesn't, as she said, as Ms. Smith said, there are avenues for that, which is not under our purview.

So when you are ready I'm ready for a motion.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: Well, I'm going to -- I'm going to just counter a little bit. I mean I agree with you on the front-end, but I do think what makes this case a -- this situation a little bit different is

that that right can be pulled back at any point and the responsibility of the state to provide an adequate public education kicks back in. And I think that's what does present a responsibility to us as the State Board to be sure that we are putting guardrails in place so that when students may come back --

MS. DEAN: Uh-huh.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: -- that they are prepared to acquire that adequate public education.

MS. DEAN: Right. And --

CHAIRMAN BARTH: So that's why I do think we do maintain a responsibility for oversight in this area, because of the fact that it's not necessarily a permanent change in status.

MS. DEAN: Absolutely. I experienced that myself. I home schooled my children for 10 years and then put them into the public school system. But as Ms. Smith said, that's why there are -- I think there are some new rules written in about parents keeping records, having a portfolio, so that when they do return it makes it that much easier for the district to place them where they need to be placed. So as I said before, I think that's all been taken care of. I know that the Department has worked very hard on

getting these rules to a good place, so I appreciate the work that they've put into them.

MS. ZOOK: I just wanted "provide" defined.

COMMISSIONER KEY: Well --

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MS. ZOOK: I don't want to take away rights; I just wanted "provide" defined.

COMMISSIONER KEY: Well, I would caution -- and sitting here thinking about that, when you define the word "provide" then you may create more of a risk of litigation because you have a debatable point at that And my lawyers can help me with that. We've time. talked about not in this context but in other contexts before of should we pursue a clear definition; because although it becomes something in statute or in rule then you have something that creates a point of judicial review. And with it not being defined then -- I don't know. I believe there's a legal concept behind that. Courtney, I know that you could probably explain it better than I can.

MS. SALAS-FORD: Oh, I don't know about that.

But, yeah -- and I can't think of the legal theory

behind it either. But, yeah, any time -- especially

because we would be going beyond the statutory

language. They chose not to define it in statute,

1	and so if we were to do so it would be a point that
2	could be brought up in litigation, because whatever
3	definition we might assign to it there's going to be
4	a thousand people that disagree with that. And so it
5	would just be one more thing that parents might have
6	to then defend themselves, and I don't think that's a
7	situation that the Legislature or the Department
8	would want to create.
9	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. All right. Ms. Dean,
10	would you like to make your motion?
11	MS. DEAN: Yes. I'd like to move to approve the
12	rules concerning governing home schools.
13	CHAIRMAN BARTH: For final approval?
14	MS. DEAN: For final approval, yes.
15	MS. NEWTON: Second.
16	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. All right. Motion
17	by Ms. Dean, second by Ms. Newton.
18	All those in favor say "aye."
19	(MAJORITY CHORUS OF AYES)
20	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed?
21	MS. ZOOK: No.
22	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Ms. Zook votes no.
23	Okay. All right.
24	B-4: CONSIDERATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: PROPOSED RULES
25	GOVERNING THE ARKANSAS EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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ACT AND REPEAL OF RULES GOVERNING THE MONITORING OF ARKANSAS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS (ACSIP), RULES GOVERNING ACCESS TO PUBLIC SCHOOL INFORMATION ON ACSIP, RULES GOVERNING THE ACADEMIC DISTRESS PROGRAM, AND RULES GOVERNING THE ASSESSMENT SCORES FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING THE ARKANSAS SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS, SCIENCES AND THE ARTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF **ARKANSAS** CHAIRMAN BARTH: Then we move next to item 4 for the afternoon and this is Act 930. So, Ms. Salas-Ford. MS. SALAS-FORD: Me again. Yes. So as you all know, we spent some time last night going over this. These are the rules governing the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act, otherwise

know, we spent some time last night going over this. These are the rules governing the Arkansas

Educational Support and Accountability Act, otherwise known as Act 930. This replaces our previous accountability system, commonly referred to as ACTAAP. And so we're asking to release these rules for public comment, and in conjunction the repeal of four existing rules and those are the rules governing the monitoring of Arkansas Comprehensive School

Improvement Plans, so ACSIP plans; rules governing access to public school information on ACSIP plans; rules governing ACTAAP and the academic distress program; and the rules governing assessment scores for students attending the Arkansas School for Math,

Science and the Arts.

And in case anyone is, you know, concerned about repeal of those, applicable portions were included in the new Act 930 rule, so it's not like all that is just going away. But as opposed to having four separate rules we were able to take relevant sections and include them in the Act 930 rules, which, as you know, address, you know, the new accountability system, as well as standards, statewide student assessment system, student focused learning, equitable education -- equitable access to educators, and the new levels of support being provided by the Department.

So we are asking to release these for public comment and I'm available for any questions.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: And I see Ms. Coffman is also available if there's questions --

MS. SALAS-FORD: Yes.

CHAIRMAN BARTH: -- about substance. Okay.

Something we have heard a lot about. But I would -are there any other questions over here? Okay.

Questions over here? Okay.

Then I would entertain a motion for these rules to be released for public comment.

MS. ZOOK: So moved.

1	MS. CHAMBERS: Second.
2	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Motion by Ms. Zook,
3	second by Ms. Chambers.
4	All in favor say "aye."
5	(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
6	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed, same sign.
7	I would also remind my fellow board members that
8	we please send your emails, if you have public
9	comment, in.
10	And do we these are bigger rules than many.
11	Do we anticipate what what forum do we expect, a
12	public meeting?
13	MS. SALAS-FORD: Yes. We will be having now
14	that you've given approval, we have a public comment
15	hearing scheduled for April 19th at the Department.
16	And then, of course, the public has 30 days to submit
17	any written comments and they can do that at any
18	time. But the public comment hearing is on April
19	19th.
20	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Great. Thank you.
21	MS. SALAS-FORD: All right. Thank you.
22	B-5: CONSIDERATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: PROPOSED RULES
23	GOVERNING THE STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND
24	SCHOOL DISTRICTS
25	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. And then next up is

1	Standards for Accreditation, Ms. Davis with that
2	rule.
3	MS. DAVIS: Jennifer Davis, Staff Attorney for
4	the Department. So the rules that you have, we did
5	cover these last night; it's the Standards for
6	Accreditation. This is we are asking that you
7	open them up for public comment. So they will go out
8	and they will also be held, if you approve, on the
9	19th as well; so that will be a big public comment
10	day. But we do ask that you approve these for public
11	comment. We talked about them in-depth last night.
12	If you have any questions, I'll be glad to answer
13	them. And I know that Ms. Coffman is also available
14	if you have anything else from last night.
15	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Any Ms. Reith? Ms.
16	Dean? Ms. Zook, do you have anything?
17	MS. ZOOK: No.
18	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Mr. Black? Ms.
19	Chambers?
20	All right. Okay. We appear ready to go on
21	this. I would entertain a motion.
22	MS. NEWTON: Move to release for public comment.
23	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Motion by Ms. Newton.
24	DR. HILL: Second.
25	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Second by Dr. Hill.

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1	All those in favor say "aye."
2	(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
3	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed, same sign.
4	And again I encourage people's public comments,
5	either in person that day or via email.
6	B-6: CONSIDERATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: REPEAL OF RULES
7	GOVERNING MANDATORY ATTENDANCE FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 9-12
8	MS. DAVIS: Okay. The next set of rules that
9	you have are a repeal of the Mandatory Attendance
10	rules. Is that where we're at? Yes, Mandatory
11	Attendance rules. These rules are no longer
12	necessary as a result of legislation from 2017 that
13	was repealed. There was one small part regarding the
14	six-hour day that we moved into the Standards for
15	Accreditation; it's also in law, but so these
16	rules are no longer necessary. So we ask that you
17	approve these for public comment as well.
18	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Any questions?
19	All right. Ms. Newton.
20	MS. NEWTON: We've given several 1240 waivers
21	along in this area. Does that mean that those
22	waivers go away or and there's no longer any need
23	for those anymore or
24	MS. DAVIS: No. I mean, so there will not be a
25	need for the waivers for actually the Mandatory

	
1	Attendance. This was for students in grades 9 to 12,
2	because there's so much flexibility now and with that
3	law repealed about where students can be. The law
4	does still require a six-hour day in order for like a
5	full instructional day or a three-hour for students
6	to be to be counted towards their 178. So that
7	may be something that people look at. But for these
8	students, no.
9	MS. NEWTON: Okay.
10	MS. DAVIS: We should not really expect any
11	waivers. And I know for since this law has gone
12	into effect we have been advising people that that
13	law is not necessary.
14	MS. NEWTON: Okay. Thank you.
15	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Any additional
16	questions?
17	Okay. I would entertain a motion on this public
18	comment release.
19	MS. NEWTON: Move to release for public comment.
20	MS. REITH: Second.
21	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Motion by Ms. Newton, second by
22	Ms. Reith.
23	All those in favor say "aye."
24	(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
25	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed, same sign.

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1	B-7: CONSIDERATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: PROPOSED RULES
2	GOVERNING CLASS SIZE AND TEACHING LOAD
3	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Ms. Davis.
4	MS. DAVIS: Okay. So the last rules that I have
5	are the Class Size and Teaching Load.
6	Now these rules are part of that class size that
7	was originally in the Standards for Accreditation
8	that we pulled out into new rules along with some
9	additional information regarding the additional
10	compensation for those teachers in grades 5-12. So
11	these rules are kind of like an accompaniment to the
12	Standards for Accreditation, so we do ask that you
13	release those for public comment as well. And if you
14	have any questions I'll be glad to answer those.
15	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Ms. Reith? Ms. Dean?
16	Ms. Zook, anything?
17	MS. ZOOK: No, sorry.
18	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Any questions Ms.
19	Newton?
20	MS. NEWTON: We had a discussion last night if
21	there were going to be some standards that when we
22	got 1240 waivers we could do and there would be some
23	that we could not. And we have waived this Class
24	Size in the past on 1240s. Is this going to be
25	which way does this one fall?

1	MS. DAVIS: This is not required by law, Class
2	Size, and that is something that we have set purely
3	either in our standards or in rule. So if that comes
4	up then you could waive it, should you want to.
5	MS. NEWTON: Okay.
6	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Ms. Dean?
7	MS. DEAN: I move to release to public comment.
8	MS. CHAMBERS: Second.
9	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Motion by Ms. Dean, second by
10	Ms. Chambers.
11	All in favor say "aye."
12	(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
13	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed, same sign.
14	All right. Thank you, Ms. Davis.
15	MS. DAVIS: Thank you.
16	MS. ZOOK: Is that also on April 19th?
17	MS. DAVIS: Yes. It will be a very large public
18	quite interesting public comment hearing.
19	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. What time does that
20	start, do we know?
21	MS. DAVIS: 1:30.
22	CHAIRMAN BARTH: 1:30, okay. Thank you.
23	B-8: CONSIDERATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: PROPOSED RULES
24	GOVERNING PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLANS AND FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
25	ENGAGEMENT

1	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. We are next up to the
2	Rules Governing Parental Involvement Plans and I'll
3	turn it over to Ms. Dedman. Oh, Ms. Salas-Ford.
4	MS. SALAS-FORD: Yes. Ms. Dedman was
5	unavailable to be here today, so Courtney Salas-Ford
6	for the Department. And these are the Rules
7	Governing Parental Involvement Plans and Family and
8	Community Engagement. The State Board approved them
9	for public comment. Public comments were received
10	and only minor changes made, and so we are now asking
11	for final I'm sorry; I'm looking at the wrong
12	item. I apologize. Jennifer will question having me
13	cover for her.
14	These are we're requesting that these go out
15	for public comment. So, yes, changes were made to
16	comply with Act 936 of 2017, as well as Arkansas'
17	ESSA plan. And so we're requesting public comment
18	release on these rules.
19	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. All right. Any
20	questions?
21	MS. ZOOK: Is this in keeping with what they're
22	doing?
23	CHAIRMAN BARTH: I was actually you read my
24	mind, Ms. Zook.
25	MS. ZOOK: Okay. Sorry.

1	CHAIRMAN BARTH: I wanted I was going to ask
2	for particular input from our friends with Family and
3	Parental Engagement on this rule.
4	MS. DEAN: As we talked about last night, we are
5	in the throes of creating standards for this. We
6	just had a great meeting yesterday with our
7	leadership section of our coalition. We have another
8	one that's going on today; right? And then we have
9	two more next week. So I'm sure as those standards
10	are created that they will at some point be
11	incorporated into this.
12	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay.
13	MS. DEAN: But things are coming along smoothly.
14	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Ms. Reith, anything to
15	add?
16	MS. REITH: No, I'm afraid I'm having some
17	internet troubles. I did want to review the draft
18	one more time before responding fully to your
19	question, but it doesn't seem to want to open for me,
20	so but the Department I know and feel confident,
21	as Ms. Dean said, the focus now is the standards but
22	
23	(COURT REPORTER'S NOTE: Ms. Salas-Ford hands a
24	copy of the rule to Ms. Reith.)
25	MS. REITH: Thank you. But this should more

1	than anything compliment and give some rules and
2	guidance to districts around that NTF. So, but if
3	it's helpful to know we have not gone over these in
4	the taskforce per se. And one of the things I'm
5	making mental note of through this process is that we
6	should take the opportunity to do so in our next
7	meeting.
8	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Great. And again,
9	if these do go out for public comment invite y'all in
10	particular to with your perspective to add
11	comments.
12	Any questions over here?
13	All right. Okay. I would entertain a motion to
14	release these for public comment.
15	MS. DEAN: I move that we release these to
16	public comment.
17	MS. CHAMBERS: Second.
18	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Motion by Ms. Dean,
19	second by Ms. Chambers.
20	All in favor say "aye."
21	(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
22	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed, same sign.
23	Also April 19th?
24	MS. SALAS-FORD: Yes.
25	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. All right. It's going

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1	to be a long day.
2	MS. SALAS-FORD: Busy day.
3	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay.
4	B-9: APPOINTMENT OF LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY
5	ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS
6	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Finally on our Action
7	Agenda for the day we have two Little Rock School
8	District Community Advisory Board Members, these are
9	vacant seats that are being filled by appointment.
10	MS. FRENO: That is that is correct, Dr.
11	Barth. Lori Freno. And you pretty much have told
12	the Board what is going on here.
13	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Right.
14	MS. FRENO: We have two vacancies. There are
15	two individuals, Michael Mason and LaShannon Spencer,
16	that the Department requests or recommends that they
17	be placed as Community Advisory Board members.
18	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Great.
19	MS. ZOOK: Did you interview did you
20	interview them?
21	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Any questions?
22	Commissioner.
23	COMMISSIONER KEY: Just to say these are two
24	individuals that Mr. Poore has spoken with both of
25	them. Ms. Spencer has actually already been very

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1	involved in a number of roles in the district as part
2	of the community, and but he is very supportive of
3	both of these appointments.
4	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Any additional
5	questions?
6	Ms. Reith, were you am I
7	MS. REITH: Huh-uh.
8	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. All right. I would
9	entertain a motion to we can approve them
10	together?
11	MS. FRENO: Yes, you can.
12	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. Great.
13	I would entertain a motion to approve these two
14	appointments.
15	MS. CHAMBERS: I move that we approve both of
16	these two appointments to the Community Advisory
17	Board.
18	DR. HILL: Second.
19	CHAIRMAN BARTH: All right. Motion by Ms.
20	Chambers, second by Dr. Hill.
21	All in favor say "aye."
22	(UNANIMOUS CHORUS OF AYES)
23	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Opposed, same sign.
24	Okay. Thank you, Ms. Freno.
25	ADJOURNMENT

- April 12, 2018

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1	CHAIRMAN BARTH: Okay. We will take a break and
2	allow a shift here and we'll let's return at 2:30.
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5	(The Action Agenda was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.)
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- April 12, 2018

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24	A-2: ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE ENHANCEMENTS
25	EXHIBIT ONE (1)

- April 12, 2018

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24	A-2: ARKANSAS BETTER CHANCE ENHANCEMENTS
25	EXHIBITS TWO (2)

CERTIFICATE

STATE OF ARKANSAS)
) ss
COUNTY OF SALINE)

I, SHARON K. HILL, CCR, a Certified Stenomask Reporter and Notary Public before whom the foregoing proceedings was taken, do hereby certify that the same is a true and correct transcription before the Arkansas State Department of Education, State Board of Education, in North Little Rock, Arkansas, on April 12, 2018, that the said proceedings was reduced to typewritten form by me or under my direction and supervision; and that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct transcription of all proceedings had in said matter.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this action.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I have no contract with any parties within this action that affects or has a substantial tendency to affect impartiality, that requires me to relinquish control of an original transcript or copies of the transcript before it is certified and delivered to the custodial agency, or that requires me to provide any service not made available to all parties to the action.

WITNESS, MY HAND AND SEAL, THIS DATE: April 22, 2018.

SHARON K. HILL, CCR Certified Court Reporter

Certificate No. 670

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